



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays

September 6, 2011, 2 p.m., CDT

NEMA Media Contact: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, (402) 471-7428 jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

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Nebraska JIC Daily Update

NEMA Continues to Monitor Flood Conditions

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency remains activated in response to ongoing flooding issues across the state. NEMA is collecting damage reports and monitoring flood conditions along the Missouri and Platte rivers and providing assistance to local emergency management officials in the flood- and storm-affected counties on a 24-hour basis. **The NEMA Flood Hotline** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at **(855) 211-2453**.

Watch for Dangers Associated with Flood Cleanup

As river levels continue to decline and flood waters recede, **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)** wants to remind the public to continue to use caution when completing flood cleanup activities.

“There is danger for crews and workers during flood repair work and cleanup,” said **Al Berndt, NEMA assistant director**. “Structural instability, heat and hazardous materials are just a few of our concerns and we urge workers to use extreme caution. Flood hazards such as exposed wires, contaminated floodwater or weakened foundations are not always obvious but can be life-threatening.”

Water-damaged structures are unstable and could be dangerous. Crews should only work in or around flood-damaged buildings that have been examined and certified as safe for work by a registered professional engineer or architect.

Berndt warned flood survivors to be careful of potential chemical hazards such as solvents, car batteries, propane tanks and other industrial chemicals.

“If you are unsure of a situation, ask for help or seek advice from an expert,” Berndt said.

UPDATED Disaster Recovery Centers Hours

- **Boyd County** -- Spencer City Office and Fire Hall, 100 E. Main St., Spencer. Hours: Tuesday, Sept. 6, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Wednesday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Sarpy and Cass Counties** -- Bellevue Fire Department Training Center, 3100 Cornhusker Road, Bellevue. Hours: Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Washington County** – Court House, 1555 Colfax St., Blair, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

NO CHANGES National Guard

Three **Nebraska National Guardsmen** are supporting the Joint Operations Center, the State Emergency Operation Center as operations transition to local authorities.

NO CHANGES Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Recommended alternate routes:

To and from Kansas: use **Highway 77** out of Lincoln and **Highway 81** out of York.

Across Nebraska: I-80 is expected to remain safe and dry route throughout the flooding months.

Strongly suggested route: If you are west of York on I-80 and intend to travel north on I-29 at Council Bluffs, consider taking **Highway 81** north at York to I-90 in South Dakota thus avoiding detour traffic in Iowa.

Avoid Highway 75 because of existing construction projects, lane closures and flood mitigation operations.

Avoid Highway 77 north of Lincoln because of delays due to bridge construction near Fremont.

NO CHANGES Road Closures Call 511 or check online at www.roads.ne.gov/flood/ or

Highway 2 is closed from Nebraska City east into Iowa due to water covering the road on the Iowa side.

Highway 12 remains closed east of Verdel to the Niobrara State Park Recreation Road. The state park is open.

Highway 175 at the Decatur Missouri River Crossing to Iowa is closed due to erosion of the bridge embankment on the Iowa side. Officials will evaluate the erosion and determine if work can be done to enable the bridge to reopen.

Highway 136 is closed from Brownville east into Missouri due to water topping a levee on the Missouri side.

Highway 159 is closed from Rulo as it runs east into Missouri. Closure is due to levee break on the Missouri side of Big Lake which resulted in water over the road on the Missouri side.

I-680 into Iowa is closed due to I-680 in Iowa being covered by flood waters.

UPDATED River Levels — The National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service lists four flood stages: Major, Moderate, Flood and Action Stages. Sites at Action Stage or above are:

North Platte River

Lewellen, 7.59 feet – at Flood Stage which is 7.5 to 8.5 feet

North Platte, 6.45 feet – at Flood Stage which is 6.2 to 6.4 feet

Platte River

Brady, 6.21 feet – at Action Stage which is 6 to 7.5 feet

Missouri River

Verdel, 25.24 feet – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 25 to 26 feet,

Niobrara, 23.57 feet – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 23 to 24 feet

Decatur, 33.89 feet – is at Action Stage which is 33 to 35 feet

Blair, 26.85 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 26.5 to 28.5

Omaha, 29.43 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 29 to 32 feet

Plattsmouth, 28.44 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 26 to 31 feet

Nebraska City, 19.8 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 18 to 23 feet,

Brownville, 35.2 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 33 to 37 feet

Rulo, 21.32 feet – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 21 to 25.6 feet



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)